

In this, she is talking about putting him into hospice, and Ray died shortly after that.

Now, think of a young wife and mother of three children, ages 7, 4 and 2, to be so strong in faith. She always would end her e-mails with the phrase "not afraid and not alone," and this is in the 10 month battle with cancer. "Not afraid and not alone." In the funeral yesterday, I thought I heard Kristin say many people attributed that to her. She attributed it to her husband.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE STAM, MISS AMERICA 2009, AND RYAN GUTHRIE, CHIEF OF STAFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE STAM, MISS AMERICA 2009

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise for two reasons this morning, on this snowy day in Washington, DC.

Number one is to congratulate Katie Stam, who is the new Miss America, who won her crown last Saturday in Las Vegas. Katie is from my hometown of Seymour, Indiana, and we could not be more proud of Katie and her accomplishments, more than ever before. This is a real tribute to her. She is a talented young lady. I know her personally. I had the opportunity to speak with her on Sunday to congratulate her on her accomplishments. She is a great singer and a beautiful woman.

She is also a friend of the family. She and my youngest daughter, Libby, know each other very well, and we all speak very highly of Katie. I know for certain that she is going to represent not only Seymour, not only Indiana, but the entire United States of America as America's not only beautiful person outside, but beautiful person inside as well.

We are immensely proud of Katie. I know her family very well. They are great people. It is just a proud moment for all of us to stand here in the well of the House today to congratulate Katie on all of her accomplishments that she has done.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN GUTHRIE, CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, the second reason that I rise here this morning is to honor my Chief of Staff, Ryan Guthrie, who is moving on to bigger and better things.

Ryan Guthrie has been with me since day one, when I began the campaign for Congress back in 1998. He is a graduate of Indiana University. He is also from Seymour, Indiana, my hometown. He has been with me from the get-go.

Madam Speaker, in this business of politics you get to a point where you have to depend reliably on people that you trust, and I can't think of anybody that I trust more than Ryan Guthrie. He has been a stalwart companion of mine. He has been there with me from day one. He has been through the battles. He has been through the victories and through the defeats. We have

laughed and cried together, and I am going to miss him very much, but I wish him well.

NEW LEGISLATIVE PROCESS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, we are hearing a lot here on Capitol Hill about Otto von Bismarck's old sausage metaphor, that one doesn't want to watch either sausage or legislation being made. Well, for too long, Madam Speaker, the legislative process in this House was a scene right out of Upton Sinclair's graphic novel, "The Jungle."

But currently with a new Congress and new Administration I would say that it has been a breath of fresh air watching this legislative process. It has been open. The ingredients have been great. The legislative leadership, the new President and his administrative team, have been involved, talking with people in both parties, in both chambers, and we are moving towards a package that I think people ought to embrace enthusiastically.

The economic stimulus is moving into stage II, almost the home stretch. We are putting down positions, principles and guidelines. Any timetable at this juncture is perhaps artificial in nature. The target figure of \$825 billion or \$800 billion or \$850 billion is a little arbitrary and subject to amendment, to adjustment. Such parameters are useful, maybe necessary. They are not set in stone, and it is necessary that we do this right. What we can agree upon is to make the economic impact as soon as possible while we help rebuild and renew America to make it better.

I am concerned as the process moves forward, particularly as it relates to the infrastructure portion, that we make sure that the money gets to where it needs to go.

□ 1045

Primarily, I want to make sure that our metropolitan areas around the country are not shortchanged.

The last Surface Transportation Act was held up for 2 years because people were arguing about whether States got an allocation that was fair enough. But the greatest disparity for transportation funding in this country was between metropolitan areas, which seldom got their fair share: 78 cents on the dollar in Dallas, southern California shortchanged by over \$1 billion.

One of the things we ought to do now, in this package while it's still in the formative stage, is to make sure that we use the existing STP allocation for all funds, not just part of the transportation funding. This formula would guarantee that metropolitan areas get their fair share and not concentrate money unduly in State departments of transportation.

The second suggestion I would make is that we not use a lot of onerous paperwork to make sure that people are complying with the use-it-or-lose-it provisions.

We have very powerful compliance tools. We could simply make modest reductions in future revenue streams for people that don't make their target—hold them accountable, get the spending, and be able to protect the Treasury.

Third, we ought to consider having local incentives for people that are actually going to reach in and put more of their own money into projects, being able to provide some modest incentive so that we reward and not penalize those who will get more money into the economy faster.

Last, we ought to assure that States put the money where it can be spent. For example, if the State of New York has areas that can't take advantage of their allocation in time, but there are areas that can, we encourage the shift. The City of New York has almost \$2 billion worth of projects that could meet that 2010 guideline. We ought to put language into this bill that encourages States to reallocate to areas that can use it, not risk losing it.

We ought to make sure that we don't shortchange transit investments. I think we ought to go back to the marker laid down by Chairman OBERSTAR last December, of \$12 billion; that ought to be a recommendation as a floor for transit. This would assure that we are able to make investments in these transportation activities that actually create more jobs than other types of transportation investments. Transit is very job intensive.

A perfect example is a project we have in Portland, Oregon, where we have had stuck in the Department of Transportation a "small-start" streetcar expansion project for months. It meets all the statutory criteria, but the Bush Department of Transportation and their FTA and OMB could not figure out how to allocate the money. They couldn't even issue "small start" administrative rules that complied with the statute.

This is an opportunity to be able to jump start something that would not only be millions of local dollars for the transit project, but it would incent millions more for related development along the alignment. And it's not just Portland, Oregon; it's Tucson, it's Seattle. We have a chance to jump start a new American industry for streetcars for the 80 communities around America who want to move in this direction, even manufacturing streetcars in America for the first time in two-thirds of a century.

I urge we move in a positive way. Support transit, support our metropolitan areas, get our economy moving while we revitalize our communities.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Almighty God and Lord of life, we seek Your guidance that we may live Your life in fullest measure.

Since the time of Sarah and Abraham, Your covenant with Your people has been the model of married life and social order. Renew us in faith and faithfulness.

May husbands and wives live in deep understanding, honoring each other both in their words and their goodness. May the bonds of intimacy grow in American family life, that hearts will be converted to lasting values and explore the joy discovered in the love and faithfulness they uncover in themselves and in each other.

Enable government of this Nation to create an atmosphere where family life may flourish for generations to come. Lord, from You comes guidance now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIREs led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 328. An act to postpone the DTV transition date.

THE ECONOMY IS UNRAVELING

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, 55,000 Americans lost their jobs yesterday. Nine thousand five hundred jobs were lost at the drug company Pfizer. They didn't have \$4 billion to keep 9,500 employees, but they had \$68 billion to buy another drug company, Wyeth, with the help of four banks, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and Bank of America, which have collectively received \$238 billion in bailout monies and loan guarantees.

Using bailout funds for mergers and acquisitions which result in the loss of jobs is nothing new. The Treasury Department gave PNC \$5.2 billion in bailout funds, which PNC promptly used to take over National City Bank in Cleveland, my hometown, putting at least 7,800 jobs at risk.

Today, as Congress takes up an economic stimulus package, we are in a race to try to create jobs to stimulate the economy while corporations are getting bailout funds and cutting jobs. The economy is unraveling. We clearly cannot rely on the private sector to create jobs. When the private sector cuts jobs, and we are approaching unemployment levels of 10 percent in some States, then it's the duty of government to create jobs.

The stimulus package is a first step, but only a first step.

WE MUST INVEST IN PROJECTS TO BENEFIT OUR ECONOMY

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, if we want the recovery package to be successful, we must invest in projects to benefit our economy in the short term and in the long term. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act does just that.

Investing in our infrastructure creates 40,000 new jobs in New Jersey and has long-term benefits that will modernize our crumbling infrastructure. The recovery plan also provides additional long-term investment in energy, health care and education. Specifically, this bill provides New Jersey with \$3.4 billion over 2 years to modernize our schools, enhance our educational technology and increase aid to students.

Finally, this legislation provides immediate and direct tax relief for 95 percent of working families, and for job-creating small businesses. By helping the average American employer and employee with their taxes, we ensure they have income to grow their businesses and make investment in the future.

I urge support for the bill.

TET, THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today marks the second day of Tet, or more commonly known as the Lunar New Year. This year is the Year of the Water Buffalo.

Tet is a reaffirmation of the Vietnamese cultural heritage and tradition and is the largest and the most celebrated holiday for the Vietnamese people. It is when friends and families come together to celebrate the past year and, of course, we look to the future year.

On January 30, the Union of the Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California will hold its annual Tet Festival in the City of Garden Grove. I would like to recognize the UVSA and the Vietnamese community for their endless efforts in bringing students, young professionals and community organizations together for the annual Tet Festival.

The Vietnamese American community plays a vital economic and cultural role in the 47th District of California, and I am very proud of its efforts in fighting to achieve freedom and human rights for all Vietnamese people.

As the Representative of the 47th District, it is a great honor to represent one of the largest Vietnamese communities in the world, and I would like to congratulate the Vietnamese community for all their successes this past year and to wish them a very happy new year, Chuc Mung Nam Moi.

TURN AROUND THE MALDISTRIBUTION OF THIS NATION'S WEALTH AND INCOME

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as we consider the stimulus bill today, it's important to reflect on how we got into this financial morass.

After all, over the last 8 years of the Bush administration, we saw the highest corporate profit and the deepest tax cuts in American history. So what's the problem? Well, 96 percent of the income growth over those 8 years went to the top 10 percent, only the wealthiest Americans.

They were the ones that benefited from the tax cuts. They benefited from the corporate deregulation. Forty-six percent of the profit went to financial services firms. So the problem is that only 4 percent of the income growth during the Bush years went to the 90 percent of middle-class Americans and those struggling to get into the middle class.

But what did they do to cope with this static income? Well, they did what the President told them to do. After 9/11 he said go shop in the mall, and that's what they did by borrowing. The increase in consumer spending was exactly equal to the amount of money borrowed from inflated home equity values.